

REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement dated April 24, 2006, applicants elect the Group I claims (1-43) without traverse.

Applicants note that the April 24, 2006 restriction requirement is the second restriction requirement issued in this case. The previous restriction requirement divided the claims in an entirely different manner (i.e., Group I was claims 1-28, 36-39, and 44-53, and Group II was claims 29-34 and 40-43). At the time, applicants canceled the Group II claims so that the Group I claims should be examined. The present restriction requirement refers to the originally-presented claims, some of which are no longer pending, having been canceled by amendment. Since a claim can only be reinstated by being presented again as a new claim (37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(5)), in order to effectuate the substance of the present election, it is necessary to re-present original claims 29-34 and 40-43 as new claims 54-63. In particular, claims 54-59 correspond to original claims 29-34, and claims 60-63 correspond to original claims 40-43. No substantive change has been made; the presentation of new claims 54-63 has been made solely to comply with the formal mechanical requirements for re-presenting a claim as stated in Rule 1.121(c)(5).

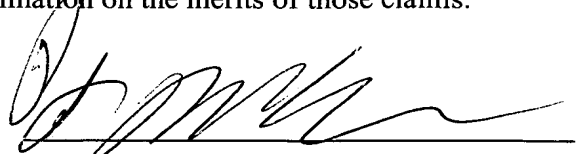
Additionally, applicants note that claims 29-34 and 40-43 are currently pending in a divisional application (U.S. Patent Application No. 11/299,114) that was filed to pursue the originally-designated Group II claims. Applicants intend to file an appropriate amendment in that divisional case to reflect the more recent division of claims set forth in the April 24, 2006 office action/restriction requirement.

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PATENT

Following entry of the amendment, claims 1-28, 35-39, and 44-63 (which constitute the Group I claims, with renumbering of some claims as explained above) will be pending in this applications, and applicants now request examination on the merits of those claims.

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